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A Message from the Principal



Dear Saint Ambrose Parents,

Do you ever have the sense that you are supposed to be reading something? That the Holy Spirit might be giving you a big hint to direct your attention to a certain piece of information? Last summer, the parish staff and I participated in a book study of Henri Nouwen's "In the Name of Jesus: Reflections on Christian Leadership". Then, this fall it was required reading for the course I took. After studying it twice,

I made a connection between Christian leadership and Christian parenting. We are all charged with the wonderful and daunting work of trying to raise our children well. Nouwen organizes these books with a few temptations we all face as leaders (and I would argue as parents), and an antidote for addressing the temptation.

The three temptations he touches upon are: The temptation to be relevant, the temptation to be spectacular and the temptation to be powerful.

I want to be relevant, to use the latest meme, to keep up with my teens' rapid fire references in the car and to participate in our culture. However, it is easy to let that need to be relevant lead the way, the conversation and to dictate the minutes on devices. My children need to hear about my interests and to learn what I care about even if they believe it is not relevant. Nouwen's counter to this temptation to be relevant is prayer: "Through contemplative prayer we can keep ourselves from being pulled from one urgent issue to another and from becoming strangers to our own heart and God's heart" (43).

The second temptation is to be spectacular-an individual superhero who successfully does it all. In our competitive world, we work hard to be successful and to do it all easily. It is hard not to want my children to think I am spectacular and that I have everything under control. After all, I don't want them to worry about adult problems. However, I do believe it is important to show them I am vulnerable, to admit when I am wrong, confess and ask for forgiveness. I believe it is prudent at times to show my children that life can be a challenge and that struggle is part of being human. This is Nouwen's advice in counteracting the temptation to be spectacular: be vulnerable and authentic.

The last temptation discussed is the temptation to be powerful. He describes the ease of operating with power and control. I had a bad instance of this a few weeks ago. I was so frustrated by my agenda being interrupted by one of my children that I tried to force said plan to a (in hindsight) point of ridiculousness. I caught myself, stepped back and thought about my objectives. It really was not moving anyone in the right direction to try to dominate the situation. Nouwen says the temptation of power is best addressed by theological reflection. "Christian leaders have the arduous task of responding to personal struggles, family conflicts, national calamities and international tensions with an articulate faith in God's real presence" (87). Easier written than done, believe me!

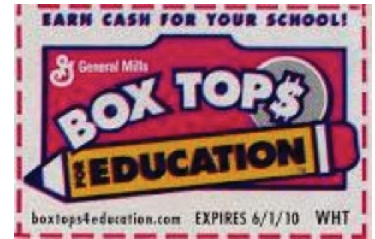
Happy New Year, Saint Ambrose parents. Thank you for sharing your children with me, and for participating in the beautiful challenge of being a Christian parent.

Sincerely,
Betsy Osterhaus Hand, Principal

Nouwen, H. J. M. (1989). In the name of Jesus: Reflections on Christian leadership. New York: Crossroad.

Clip in the New Year! Box Tops Contest

Deadline: Monday, January 27



Contest Details:

- Contest runs from January 3-27, 2016 for grades K-8.
- Students are asked to submit nicely clipped Box Tops (preferably pre-counted) to their teachers.
- The classroom with the most Box Tops submitted in January receives a classroom party!
- There is also a weekly prize for the class with the most Box Tops each week. Weekly winners will be announced on next Monday.
- For details on participating products, please visit <http://www.boxtops4education.com/participating-products>
- Don't forget to ask grandparents, aunts, uncles, other relatives and friends to save their Box Tops for Saint Ambrose too!

Did you know?

- Box Tops for Education® is one of the nation's largest school fundraising loyalty programs. With over 250 participating products, it's an easy way to earn cash for things the school needs.
- Each coupon is worth 10 cents.
- **In the 2015-16 school year, our school raised close to \$2700 by clipping and submitting Box Tops!**
- We have a great group of volunteers who help keep the program running smoothly all year long. Thank you!

Mark Your Calendars for February 20!

Let O'Malley's do the cooking! Come to O'Malley's in Woodbury on February 20 for Give Back Mondays. O'Malley's will give 10% of the sales from Saint Ambrose patrons back to the school. Simply eat and at the end of your meal, place your receipt in designated box at the restaurant – let O'Malley's do the rest!





Book Fair dates: Wednesday Feb 8th through Friday Feb 10th

Shopping hours:

**Wednesday 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM
Thursday 8:30 AM – 7:30 PM
Friday 8:30 AM – 1:30 PM**

Special activities:

Open During Conferences – Stop in any time before or after your scheduled conference time!

Family Read & Feed Event – On Friday, parents, grandparents, and special friends are invited to participate in our Family Read and Feed Event. It's a great opportunity to share lunch with your student and shop at the Book Fair! Join your child during their normally scheduled lunchtime and eat together and then shop at the Book Fair during their normally scheduled recess time.

Volunteer at the Book Fair!

Join our volunteer team to bring creative flair to signs and decorations, organize and put things in place, set-up or pack-up the fair. Most importantly, help shoppers of all ages find the perfect book! We appreciate your support in whatever form it takes.

Contact Megan Titcomb, at megantitcomb@outlook.com to get involved.

Signup Genius Link to Volunteer <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c084baba72fa3f58-2017>
(Virtus training required.)

Thank you and see you at the Book Fair!

Parents Needed!

Make a difference in YOUR child's education!

Become your child's classroom Junior Achievement Volunteer!

Why: Junior Achievement is a non-profit organization dedicated to inspire & prepare youth to succeed in the global economy.

Where: In your child's classroom.

When: All classes will take place within a pre-selected range of time. Details of the start date, day of the week & time is left up to the volunteer & the teacher. Saint Ambrose class dates will be in April and May.

What: All class materials are provided by Junior Achievement, including on-line training session for first time volunteers. The lesson plans are user friendly, fun, and easy to teach. Experience in business is NOT necessary to be a Junior Achievement volunteer.

How: Only your time and passion is needed to become a Junior Achievement volunteer! Only 30-45 minutes per week for five weeks.

Your help is essential in making this program a success in your child's classroom. To learn more about volunteering you can go to our website and see a brief video (less than 4 minutes) with a volunteer in the classroom. Interested? Email Janet at janet.seidenkranz@saintambroseofwoodbury.org

The HandS Board Needs YOU

Selections for the HandS Board will begin in March 2017. Please consider using your time and talents to fill any of the four vacant positions on the Board. Depending upon the position, either a one or two-year commitment is requested.

The opening positions include:

Vice President • Treasurer • Fundraising Coordinator • Secretary

If you love being involved in school functions, like to organize and want to be a part of our fantastic school community, then this is for you! Look for more election information to come through the Connections Newsletter and Friday Folder e-mails. If you are interested in attending a HandS Board meeting, they are held in the Father Pignatore Room on the first Thursday of the month at 6:30. Please refer to the Connections Newsletter for specific dates and times. Any questions can be referred to Nicole Lind at nicole.lind.mi@gmail.com.

A Message from the Assistant Principal

Celebrating Catholic Schools Week

As we enter the month of January, my excitement grows as Catholic Schools Week nears. As a Catholic School administrator, it is one of my favorite weeks of the year and it reminds me why I love working at Saint Ambrose. Since 1974, National Catholic Schools Week is the annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States. This week is filled with fun celebrations including Masses, themed dressed days, student and teacher appreciation days, pep rallies, and field trips. The theme for the National Catholic Schools Week 2017 is “Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service.” This theme encompasses Saint Ambrose’s mission and why I consider it an incredible place to work.

Faith: Saint Ambrose staff has a commitment to faith. Our staff shares a prayer life. We begin meeting with prayers and we pray for our students and families. We attend Mass together throughout the year. We begin each August teacher in-service with a faculty Mass. Our teacher-led Catholic Identity committee guides our staff faith development. Every December, we have a teacher spiritual retreat. This year’s retreat was especially wonderful because it included talks by Father Stan and Hector Bautista with focus on prayer and scripture. Thanks to this day of retreat, I have been inspired to expand and improve my daily prayer life. I feel blessed that Saint Ambrose nurtures my faith life.

Knowledge: Mrs. Hand and I work diligently to foster a culture of professional excellence and intellectual curiosity among our staff. We support our teachers in their professional development goals. We offer our teachers professional development on best practices in instruction, assessment, and technology. Thanks to the Catholic School Center of Excellence, all of our teachers will receive high quality professional development training on technology integration this year. I have continued to learn and develop my educational “toolbox” because Saint Ambrose is place that encourages lifelong learning and commitment to professional excellence.

Service: We make a commitment to service. Our teachers get the opportunity to lead and attend service projects with their students. In addition, our staff competes service projects together. Our staff and students join together to support organizations like: House of Charity, Feed My Starving Children, Pennies for Patient, The Christian Cupboard, and many more. This fall, I was overjoyed to attend field trip service project with our 5th graders. We were able to attend Mass and student performed music for the residents of Stonecrest Assisted Living Home.

Saint Ambrose is a place that develops the faith, minds, and hearts of our students and staff. For this daily opportunity, I feel blessed to be a part of the Saint Ambrose community.

Mrs. Erin Nemetz
Assistant Principal

Athletic Department News

The winter athletic season is progressing into 2016. Our eight basketball teams are competing and having fun in the Catholic Athletic Association. Thanks to all the coaches and assistant coaches who are making our programs possible. Thank you to the families and players for making such a robust number of teams possible. Please families, thank your coaches for their time and energy. None of them are required to do what they are doing for us, and we appreciate their work tremendously.

For those parents and families who are new to the athletic program, here's what you can expect for the remainder of this school year in athletics:

- Basketball games resumes the first week of January. Our teams will play approximately six more games prior to CAA playoffs. Every team makes the playoffs regardless of their records.
- February is the signup period for spring sports including baseball for boys, fast-pitch softball for girls, and co-ed track. Below is the chart which outlines the fees associated to a particular sport. Please take note of our late fee policy on the following page.
- The seasons for baseball and softball typically include practices in late March, games during all of April, and games and playoffs during the first two weeks of May.
- The CAA track meet is generally held the first Saturday morning in May.
- Individuals interested in coaching baseball, softball, and track should contact me as soon as possible. We expect to need a number of coaches again this spring. Be advised, our coaches all perform VIRTUS training as required by the Archdiocese and also must perform a background check. VIRTUS training must be renewed every three years now at St. Ambrose. Most coaches that already have it done will have to renew by March 31st in order to continue coaching. All coaches are eligible to be paid for their time and energy.
- May is the signup period for next year's fall sports including girls volleyball, girls soccer, boys soccer, and cheerleading. Completing the registration and paying the fees during May are required for athletes who intend to play in the fall.

We are currently looking for a Swim Coach. This is a one-day responsibility and does not require running practices.

The physical education department is looking for used iPads. We would like to implement them for various activities in our class such as; fitness data recording, workouts linked to QR codes, Yoga, and to play music for our upcoming dance unit. If you recently bought a new Ipad wondered what could I do with the old one, please consider donating it to our physical education program. All information will be wiped for each IPad.

SAINT AMBROSE ATHLETICS REGISTRATION

FALL	PLAYING DATES	REGISTERED BEFORE MAY 31	REGISTERED AFTER MAY 31
Soccer	September-October	\$85	\$105
Volleyball	September-October	\$85	\$105
WINTER	PLAYING DATES	REGISTERED BEFORE NOVEMBER 2	REGISTERED AFTER NOVEMBER 2
Basketball	November-February	\$90	\$110
Swimming	March	\$35 (before January 1)	\$55 (after January 1)
WINTER	PLAYING DATES	REGISTERED BEFORE FEBRUARY 15	REGISTERED AFTER FEBRUARY 15
Baseball	March-May	\$90	\$110
Softball	March-May	\$90	\$110
Track	March-May	\$45	\$65

Coaches are needed!

Please contact me at school using email or telephone with questions or concerns, or if you might be interested in coaching a spring baseball, softball, or track team.



Bruce Whynott
 Athletic Director
 Phone: 651-768-3025
 Email: Bruce.Whynott@SaintAmbroseofWoodbury.org

2017/2018 Registration, Grades 1-8

Monday, February 6 - Friday, February 17

Registration for the 2017/2018 school year for families who currently have children at Saint Ambrose will be held February 6-17. Information will be mailed to all current families in early February. If you know family, friends, or neighbors who are considering Saint Ambrose of Woodbury for their children, we would love to hear from them! Potential families can contact the school office to set up a tour.

Don't Forget Your Tax Deduction

Taxpayers with children in grades K-12 attending a public or a non-public school or home school qualifies for either a tax deduction or a tax credit from the State of Minnesota. Even if you don't itemize your taxes you can receive this benefit.

Deduction – The 2015 Take Credit for Learning program offers a deduction to all families, regardless of income, who purchase educational materials and programs for their children. You can take a deduction of up to \$1,625 for a child in grades K-6 and \$2,500 children in grades 7-12 for money you spend to assist in your child's education.

Credit – The 2015 Take Credit for Learning program offers a \$1,000 tax credit per child based on family size and income limits. Specific guidelines for the tax credit can be found at the Minnesota Department of Revenue website: http://www.revenue.state.mn.us/individuals/individ_income/Pages/K-12_Education_Subtraction_and_Credit.aspx.

Examples of Qualifying Expenses:

- Tuition at a non-public school*
- Tutoring by a qualified instructor (see restrictions)
- Academic books and materials required for non-religious classes
- Purchase or rental of a musical instrument used for school music class
- Music lessons by a qualified instructor (see restrictions)
- Fees paid to others for transportation to school
- Home computer hardware and educational software (limits apply)
- Summer-camp tuition primarily academic in focus
- After-school enrichment programs

**Item qualifies for tax deduction only.*

Kindergarten Information Night

Thursday, January 12, 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

This night is an opportunity for families who are considering Saint Ambrose for their incoming kindergartener to meet the kindergarten team, learn about our school program, and take a tour of our facility.



Jr. High Information Night

Monday, January 25, 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

Current and new families are invited to hear about our junior high program and meet our team.

Catholic Schools Week 2017

Monday, January 23 - Friday, January 27



During the week of January 23-27, Saint Ambrose of Woodbury School will be celebrating Catholic Schools Week. This is a week set aside to celebrate the history of Catholic Schools and the unique place they hold in our nation's educational system.

The National Catholic Education Association (NCEA) has developed the theme, **Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service**, which fits perfectly with our mission statement! The week will include student participation at the weekend Masses on January 21 and 22, as well as special events throughout the week. See Friday Folders for full details.

Dress Up Days:

Monday, January 23 – Sports Day

Tuesday, January 24 – Dress Your Best - Mass at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday, January 25 – Wacky Wednesday / Parent Appreciation

Thursday, January 26 – Mismatch Day

Friday, January 27 – Free Dress Day

HandS Used Uniform Sale

Tuesday, January 17, 3:00 - 6:00 p.m. (Saint Anne Room)

Everything is just \$2!!!

Home and School (HandS) is hosting a Used Uniform Inventory Sale on Tuesday, January 17, from 3:00 - 6:00 p.m. in the Saint Anne Room. Check out the inventory of gently worn items including jumpers, skirts, shirts, pants, sweatshirts, gym clothes and accessories. If you're looking ahead to spring, there is a large selection of shorts for boys and girls.



Cash and checks will be accepted as forms of payment. Make checks payable to Saint Ambrose of Woodbury. If you are planning to donate uniforms for the sale, please donate clean items without stains, holes, or broken/missing zippers or buttons. Items may be dropped off in the school office.

Spirit Wear Orders Due

Tuesday, February 28

The next Spirit Wear order deadline is Tuesday, February 28. Spirit Wear will not be available for order again until next fall so stock up now! Order forms are available online:

<http://saintambroseofwoodburyschool.org/current-family/spirit-wear>.

If you have any questions regarding School Spirit Wear items or orders, please contact CJ at jchohn@comcast.net.

Parent/ Teacher Conferences

Thursday, February 2 or Tuesday, February 7

Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held in the evening on Thursday, February 2 and again on Tuesday, February 7. Look for conference sign-up slips to come.

For families with children in grades K-5 the second round of conferences is not mandatory, but will instead be at the request of the parent or teacher. Students in grades 6-8 will participate in student-led conferences and all families with a 6th-8th grade student should plan to attend one of these evenings.

Calendar of Events

January 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 NO SCHOOL Christmas Break	3 School Resumes	4	5	6 All School Mass (9:45 a.m.)	7
8	9	10	11	12 Kindergarten Information Night for Fall 2017 Kindergarteners	13 All School Mass (9:45 a.m.)	14
15	16 No school Martin Luther King Day	17 Uniform Sale (3:00 – 6:00 p.m.)	18	19	20 Prayer Service K-2 (9:45 a.m.)	21
22	23 Jr. High Information Night (7:00 p.m.)	24 All School Mass (9:45 a.m.)	----- Catholic School Week -----		27 All Pro Dads (8:15 a.m.) Mid Trimester	28
29	30	31				

February 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Parent Teacher Conferences (4:15 – 8:00 p.m.)	3 Mass Grades 6-8 (9:45 a.m.)	4
5	6 School Registration 2017 / 2018 School Year begins	7 Parent Teacher Conferences (4:15 – 8:00 p.m.)	8 Scholastic Book Fair	9 Scholastic Book Fair	10 All School Mass (9:45 a.m.) Scholastic Book Fair	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20 No school President's Day	21	22	23	24 All Pro Dads (8:15 a.m.) All School Mass (9:45 a.m.)	25
26	27	28				

2016-2017 School Calendar

Monday, January 03	School Resumes
Friday, January 06	All School Mass (9:45 a.m.)
Thursday, January 12	Kindergarten Information Night
Friday, January 13	All School Mass (9:45 a.m.)
Monday, January 16	No School - MLK Day
Tuesday, January 17	Uniform Sale (4:00 – 7:00 p.m.)
Friday, January 20	Prayer Service, K-2 (9:45 a.m.)
January 21-27	Catholic Schools Week
Monday, January 23	Jr. High Information Night (7:00 p.m.)
Tuesday, January 24	All School Mass (9:45 a.m.)
Friday, January 27	All Pro Dads (8:15 a.m.)
Friday, January 27	Mid-Trimester

OUR SCHOOLS MISSION

We at Saint Ambrose of Woodbury Catholic School are dedicated to supporting families in fostering our Catholic faith and moral development while providing the highest quality academic standards, so we may influence the world in a Christian manner.

Thursday, February 02	Parent/Teacher Conference (4:15 – 8:00 p.m.)
Friday, February 03	Mass Grades 6-8 (9:45 a.m.)
Monday, February 06	Registration for 2017 / 2018 School Year begins
Tuesday, February 07	Parent/Teacher Conference (4:15 – 8:00 p.m.)
Friday, February 10	All School Mass (9:45 a.m.)
February 08-10	Scholastic Book Fair
February 06-17	2017/2018 Registration
Monday, February 20	No School - President's Day
Friday, February 24	All Pro Dads (8:15 a.m.)
Friday, February 24	All School Mass (9:45 a.m.)

Friday, March 10	End of 2nd Trimester
Monday, March 13	No School - Teacher In-Service

April 10-14	No School - Spring Break
April 10-April 26	Spring MAP Testing (Grades 2-8)
April 17-19	7th Grade Environmental Learning Center Trip
Thursday, April 27	Mid-Trimester

Friday, May 05	Gala / Bishop Pates Endowment Benefit
Friday, May 12	Grandparent / Special Friend Day
Thursday, May 18	Spring Band Concert
Monday, May 29	No School - Memorial Day

Thursday, June 01	8th Grade Graduation (7:00 p. m.)
Friday, June 9	Last Day of School (Grades K-7)
Monday, June 12	Teacher In- Service
